

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12161 01 OF 03 201730Z
ACTION OIC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7391
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BRUSSELS 12161

USEEC

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/OIC

GENEVA ALSO FOR MTN; ALL OTHER ADDRESSEE POSTS FOR CUSTOMS
ATTACHE/SENIOR CUSTMS REPRESENTATIVE

PASS US CUSTOMS FOR COMMISSIONER FROM USDEL D. SEQUEIRA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CCC, OCON, BE
SUBJECT: CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL: 51/52ND SESSIONS
BRUSSELS (JUNE 12-16, 1978)

REF: STATE 135197

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12161 01 OF 03 201730Z

1. SUMMARY: CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL HELD ITS 51ST/52ND
ANNUAL SESSIONS IN BRUSSELS FROM JUNE 12 TO 16, 1978,
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. J. BROZ (CZECHOSLOVAKIA).
MEETING MARKED 25TH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
AND IMPORTANT LANDMARK IN COUNCIL'S EVOLUTION. SESSIONS
WERE ATTENDED BY HEADS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE CUSTOMS
ADMINISTRATIONS OF 63 MEMBER STATES AND BY 11 OBSERVERS

FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CUBA) AND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING EC, IMF, GATT, AND UNCTAD. FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS TAKEN ON AGENDA ITEMS:

2. COUNCIL NOTED POSITIONS REGARDING ACCESSIONS TO CONVENTIONS AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE MAY 15: JORDAN.S SIGNATURE OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION; IVORY COAST.S ACCESSION TO THE KYOTO CONVENTION; AND TO THE "EXHIBITION AND FAIRS" CONVENTION; AND HUNGARY.S DENUNCIATION OF THE ECS CONVENTION. COUNCIL INFORMED THAT AUSTRIA WILL SIGN NAIROBI CONVENTION THIS WEEK AND THAT INDIA EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF ACCESSION TO IT. ALSO, LEBANON WILL ACCEDE SHORTLY.

3. COUNCIL NOTED POSITION REGARDING ACCEPTANCES OF THE COUNCIL.S FOUR CATEGORIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INFORMATION RECEIVED AFTER MAY 15 FROM IVORY COAST OF ITS ACCEPTANCE OF FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS: USE OF TEMPORARY IMPORTATION PAPERS RE RADIO AND TELEVISION VANS (1955); CUSTOMS TREATMENT OF REGISTERED BAGGAGE CARRIED OUT BY RAIL (1962); FREE ADMISSION OF REMOVABLE ARTICLES IMPORTED ON TRANSFER OF RESIDENCE (1962); REIMPORTED GOODS (1967); ACCEPTANCE BY FRANCE OF TWO 1977 RECOMMENDATIONS RE TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 12161 01 OF 03 201730Z

VANS AND TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT CARRIED IN VEHICLES USED FOR TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, AND ACCEPTANCE BY PAKISTAN OF 1975 RECOMMENDATION POOLING OF CUSTOMS INFORMATION CONCERNING CUSTOMS FRAUD.

4. CHAIRMAN OF THE VALUATION COMMITTEE, MR. J. ALVAREZ (SPAIN) REPORTED THAT CURRENT MTN PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE WHICH MAY RESULT IN NEW INTERNATIONAL CODE CONCERNING VALUATION FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES. NOTING THAT THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF A CUSTOMS VALUATION SYSTEM PRIMARILY INVOLVES QUESTIONS OF CUSTOMS TECHNIQUE AND THAT COUNCIL HAS BEEN DEALING WITH SUCH QUESTIONS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE VALUATION COMMITTEE.S PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC GROUP WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE CODE BY MTN. THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED (1) TEXTS FOR CERTAIN PASSAGES IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES CONCERNING BRANCHES AND IMPORTATIONS BY CERTAIN ASSOCIATED HOUSES AND (2) TWO EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATING PASSAGES IN EXPLANATORY NOTES RE PAYMENTS REGARDING INTANGIBLE RIGHTS AND ERECTION; MAINTENANCE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPENSES.

5. MR GROHMANN (AUSTRIA), CHAIRMAN OF THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE, REPORTED THAT HUNGARY HAD ACCEDED TO THE NOMENCLATURE CONVENTION, THUS BRINGING TOTAL CONTRACTING PARTIES TO 38; HE ALSO ADVISED FORTHCOMING ACCESSION OF GHANA, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, AND UPPER VOLTA. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE NOMENCLATURE CONVENTION BY INCREASING FROM 6 TO 12 MONTHS THE PERIOD WHICH

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12161 02 OF 03 201736Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BRUSSELS 12161

ELAPSES BETWEEN THE DATE WHEN AMENDMENTS TO NOMENCLATURE ARE ACCEPTED AND TIME WHEN THEY ENTER INTO FORCE.

6. RE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE.S TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES, COUNCIL ADOPTED CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO NOMENCLATURE (FOR INCLUSION IN FUTURE RECOMMENDATION) AND TO EXPLANATORY NOTES, TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS AND OPINIONS. COMMITTEE.S RULING ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF SOLID-STATE PHOTO-ISOLATED POWER RELAYS WAS ACCEPTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM SUBJECT TO RESERVATION THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD UNDERTAKE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC MICRO-CIRCUITS IN NEAR FUTURE.

7. COUNCIL APPROVED SIX NEW CHAPTERS IN HARMONIZED SYSTEM
DRAFTED BY THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE (HSC) TOGETHER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12161 02 OF 03 201736Z

WITH SEVERAL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS RE CHAPTERS PREVIOUSLY
EXAMINED. MR. GROHMANN RECALLED THAT A NUMBER OF COUN-
TRIES ALTHOUGH NOT CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE NOMEN-
CLATURE CONVENTION, NONETHELESS HAVE TARIFFS BASED ON
CCCN. HE DESCRIBED ACTION TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE HEADS OF
ADMINISTRATIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES TO ALIGN THEIR TARIFFS
ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF JANUARY 1, 1978 AND AT THE SAME
TIME INCORPORATE IN THEM THE STATISTICAL SUBHEADINGS
WHICH WERE THE SUBJECT OF THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS
OF JANUARY 1, 1975. COUNCIL AGREED THAT THIS REALIGNMENT
WAS IMPORTANT SINCE IT WOULD SECURE GREATER UNIFORMITY
IN THE INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE CCCN AND
WOULD THUS HELP FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

8. COUNCIL NOTED WITH INTEREST THE ENCOURAGING ATTITUDE
OF THE JOINT UN/EC WORKING GROUP ON WORLD LEVEL
CLASSIFICATIONS (NOVEMBER 1977) WHICH HAD REAFFIRMED
THE CENTRAL ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM
IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS.

9. UPON COMPLETION OF THE REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
HSC, MR. SORTHEIX (ARGENTINA), THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT
THE HSC HAD SUCCEEDED IN ACCELERATING ITS RATE OF PRO-
GRESS BY MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN ITS WORKING METHODS,
WITH THE RESULT THAT SOME 47 PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE SYSTEM
HAD NOW BEEN EFFECTIVELY FINALIZED. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS
RATE OF PROGRESS, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THE WORKING
METHODS OF THE HSC STILL NEEDED MODIFICATION IN ORDER TO
ENSURE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY THE END OF 1981. THE
COUNCIL APPROVED BY A VERY CLOSE VOTE A PROPOSAL BY THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE HSC TO EXTEND THE HSC SESSIONS TO THREE
WEEKS EACH. FURTHER COUNCIL DECIDED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO
THE HSC AND THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE AS REGARDS THE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 12161 02 OF 03 201736Z

ALLOCATION OF SUITABLE PERIODS IN THE ANNUAL CALENDARS
OF MEETINGS.

10. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE REPORTS OF THE PERMANENT
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MR. J. CULLEN (IRELAND) AND
ALSO ADOPTED THREE ANNEXES TO THE CONVENTION ON SIMPLIFI-

CATION AND HARMONIZATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES: (1) ANNEX CONCERNING CUSTOMS FORMALITIES APPLICABLE TO COMMERCIAL MEANS OF TRANSPORT; (2) ANNEX CONCERNING RELIEF FROM IMPORT DUTIES AND TAXES RE GOODS DECLARED FOR HOME USE, AND (3) ANNEX CONCERNING REIMPORTATION IN THE SAME STATE. THE FOLLOWING DRAFTS WERE REFERRED BACK TO THE PTC: (1) ANNEX CONCERNING INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AND (2) ANNEX CONCERNING APPEALS IN CUSTOMS MATTERS.

11. COUNCIL NOTED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CUSTOMS INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES AT THEIR TWELFTH MEETING AND THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON ENFORCEMENT AND THE WORKING PARTY ON CUSTOMS APPLICATIONS OF COMPUTERS.

12. DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS WERE INVITED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND GIVE SUGGESTIONS ON COUNCIL'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION EFFORTS. MR. S. ODLE (CARICOM) THANKED COUNCIL FOR THE ASSISTANCE EXTENDED TO CARICOM AND FORMALLY REQUESTED COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN ANOTHER TRAINING COURSE FOR CARICOM TO BE HELD IN BARBADOS IN NEAR FUTURE. COUNCIL CONSIDERED AND APPROVED SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO PREPARE THEIR OWN PROGRAM OF CUSTOMS TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND THAT SECRETARIAT SHOULD GIVE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN THIS

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12161 03 OF 03 201738Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BRUSSELS 12161

TASK AND APPROACH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
FOR THEIR COLLABORATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEMES.

13. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED ITS POLICY CONCERNING ANY NEW
VALUATIONS SYSTEM WHICH MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (SEE PARA 4 ABOVE). IT ADOPTED A
RESOLUTION REQUESTING ITS CONTRACTING PARTIES TO SEEK TO
ENSURE THAT THE ELABORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANY SUCH
SYSTEM SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO THE COUNCIL IN CONTINUA-
TION OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS REGARDS QUESTIONS OF
CUSTOMS TECHNIQUE: THE RESOLUTION FURTHER STATES THAT
THE COUNCIL IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE BODY TO UNDERTAKE
THESE TASKS, AND IS JEAHY TO DO SO.

14. THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCED THE ELECTION OF MR. J.A. KEAN
(NEW ZEALAND) AS THE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL. THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12161 03 OF 03 201738Z

COUNCIL ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE
COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN AUSTRALIA FROM MAY 14 TO MAY 18,
1979. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

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